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Message Text

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51
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 ACDA-10

SAJ-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 IO-10 /082 W
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P R 201259Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 1958
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS, IPS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ARAB-AMERICAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY. LEBANESE COMMENTATORS DISCUSS CURRENT AREA TENSIONS ALONG PREDICTABLE LINES. LEADING INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR SAMXDNYENAEL LAUNCHES NEW WAR ARABS WILL HOLD U.S. RESPONSIBLE. IN SEPARATE EDITORIAL AN NAHAR SEES SADAT'S RECENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN U.S. LEADERSHIP (IN ABC INTERVIEW) AS SIGNAL TO CONSERVATIVE ARAB STATES THAT HE DOES NOT PLAN TO RETURN COMPLETELY TO DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS. PRO-SOVIET ASH SHAAB AND PRO-SYRIA ASH SHARQ CENSURE U.S. FOR ISRAELI ARMS BUILDUP. END SUMMARY.

1. COMMENTING ON WAR FEARS IN AREA, LEADING INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR WROTE: "AFTER OCTOBER WAR AND AFTER AIR BRIDGE WHICH AMERICA ESTABLISHED TO TRANSPORT ARMS TO ISRAELI BATTLEFIELD, NO ONE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE IDEA THAT ISRAEL MIGHT THINK OF WAR AGAIN WITHOUT U.S. CONSENT....
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SHOULD AN ISRAELI WAR TAKE PLACE AND EVEN SHOULD ISRAEL

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TRIUMPH, SO FAR AS AMERICA'S ARAB FRIENDS ARE CONCERNED
IT WILL NOT BE TRIUMPH FOR ISRAEL AS MUCH AS IT WILL BE
DEFEAT FOR AMERICA AND AMERICAN POLICY. AMERICA MIGHT
PAY VERY DEARLY IN TERMS OF ITS INTERESTS IN
AREA."

2. ON SAME SUBJECT PRO-SOVIET ASH SHAAB WROTE: "AMERICA,
WHILE BRANDISHING ITS PERMANENT SLOGAN OF TRADITONAL
FRIENDSHIP TOWARD ARAB STATES, PERMITS ITS MAD DOG IN
TEL AVIV TO BITE THIS FRIENDSHIP THANKS TO AMERICAN
BACKING AND ARMS"...

3. PRO-SYRIA ASH SHARQ: "U.S. GRUDGE CAMPAIGN AGAINST
ARABS IS INCREASING DAY AFTER DAY. WAS DRUMS BEATEN
BY ISRAEL ARE NOTHING BUT ECHO OF U.S.: CRIES AND RATTLING
OF SOPHISTICATED U.S. ARMS WHICH ARE FLOWING CONSTANTLY
TO ISRAEL. THIS IS BECAUSE MILITARY AND POLITICAL
TRIUMPHS OF PALESTININAN REVOLUTION HAVE
UNDOUBTEDLY FOILED KISSINGER'S PLANS TO SPLINTER ARABS,
DESTROY THEIR SOLIDARITY AND WEAKEN THEIR POTENTIAL
THROUGH TOURS THAT HAVE NO AIM OTHER THAN WASTING TIME
TO BENEFIT ISRAEL."

4. IN ANOTHER EDITORIAL AN NAHAR COMMENTED YESTERDAY
ON SADAT'S FAVORABLE REMARKS ON U.S. TELEVISION ABOUT FORD
AND KISSINGER. "ON EVE OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO
CAIRO, SADAT WANTED TO EMPHASIZE THAT HE STILL HOLDS
AMERICAN HAND, THAT HE HAS NOT LOST HOPE IN U.S. AND
THAT HE DOES NOT ATTACH ALL HIS HOPES TO USSR. THIS IS
ONLY THING NEW IN SADAT'S STATEMENT, PARTICULARLY IF
REASSURANCE IS MEANT NOT ONLY FOR AMERICA BUT ALSO FOR
ARAB FLANK, HEADED BY KING FEISAL, OPPOSED TO RETURN
OF EGYPT TO SOVIET ORBIT... EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT IS IN
STATE OF DUAL WAITING: WAITING FOR BREZHNEV AFTER
STOPPAGE OF FLOW OF JEWS AND WAITING FOR FULFILMENT OF
AMERICA'S PROMISE REGARDING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL...THIS
IS PROBABLY PART OF ABILITY OF EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT. HE
IS AWARE THAT WORLD IS WATCHING TO SEE HOW HE WILL
BALANCE BETWEEN SOVIET RETURN AND AMERICAN CONTINUITY."
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